

PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 1, line 21 with the following paragraph:

At an appropriate time, which is determined by a sino-atrial or "SA" node, an a periodic spontaneous electrical depolarization is provided which causes the muscle tissue surrounding the atrium to depolarize. Depolarization of the atrial muscle tissue can be monitored by detecting an electrical signal reflective of atrial depolarization known as a P-wave.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 4, line 3, with the following paragraph:

In the prior art, when a an implantable stimulation device is implanted in a patient, or thereafter, the value of the AV delay and/or PV delay can be set to a value that is selected to optimally assist the patient's heart as it performs its critical function of a pump. For many patients, such an AV/PV delay value is a value that is somewhat longer than the natural conduction time of the heart. This affords the patient's heart as long a time period as possible before delivering a stimulation pulse.

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Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 13, line 24, with the following paragraph:

The implementation of capture detection circuitry and algorithms are well known. See for example, U.S. Patent No. 4,729,376 (Decote, Jr.); U.S. Patent No. 4,708,142 (Decote, Jr.); U.S. Patent No. 4,686,988 (Sholder); U.S. Patent No. 4,969,467 (Callaghan et al.); and U.S. Patent No. ~~5,350,410~~ 5,350,410 (~~Mann-Kleks~~ et al.), which patents are hereby incorporated herein by reference. The type of capture detection system used is not critical.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 20, line 20, with the following paragraph:

It will be understood that the integral values are influenced by the electrode type. ~~in~~ In one embodiment, the electrodes used have low polarization properties. Low polarization electrodes typically have little or no voltage transient due to charging of the Helmholtz ~~layer following~~ layer following a stimulation pulse. This charging of the Helmholtz layer results in a voltage transient that in an extreme may obscure the evoked response waveform. The problem is well known to those skilled in the art and is overcome by using electrodes that are coated with platinum black, TiN, Iridium ~~Oxide,~~ or Oxide, or made with activated vitreous carbon.